



PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Gilbert M. Aust et al.
Serial No. : 09/707,445
(Reissue of U.S. Patent
No. 5,540,706, issued
July 30, 1996)
Filing Date : November 6, 2000
For : SURGICAL INSTRUMENT
Group Art Unit : 3731
Examiner : Michael H. Thaler
Attorney Docket No. : A31-2047RE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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FEB 24 2004

AMENDMENT

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Introductory Comments

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 5, 2003, please reconsider the above-identified application in view of the following amendments.

STATUS OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 2, and 4 are pending and have been allowed.

Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled.

Claims 3, 5-7, 10, and 11 are pending and stand rejected.